

The only perfin item which I managed to find while on holiday in Devon was at a Car Boot Sale. It was a cover for Barclay Perkins, the brewers, with new identity for B5710.04 (See Bulletin 272).

On the front of the cover was a silhouette of Dr. Johnson and an embossed identity on the flap incorporating an anchor motif. The enclosed letter also showed an impression of Dr. Johnson and even had the outline of Dr. Johnson as a watermark. What possible connection could Dr. Johnson have had with a brewery, I wondered, that they could use his portrait as their trade mark?

Two weeks later at a Collectors Fair my wife spotted a booklet entitled, "The Romance of a Brewery" published by Barclay Perkins, and which gave the history of the Company and the Anchor Brewery which is as follows.

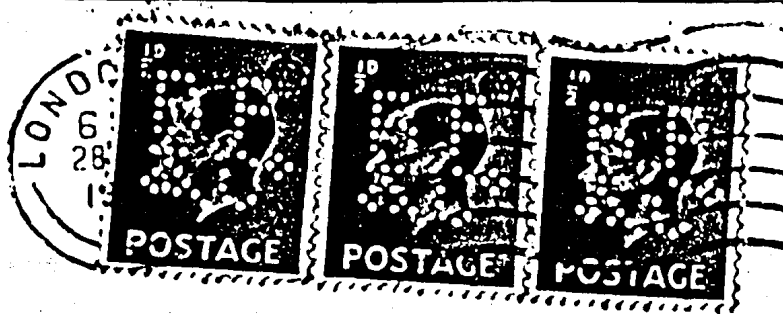
The earliest record of the Anchor Brewery is in 1693 and was owned by the Child family. Edmund Halsey, an employee, worked up to the position of sole proprietor, amassing a considerable fortune, and then sold the business to his nephew and manager, Ralph Thrale.

Dr. Samuel Johnson was a great friend of the Thrale family, and on the death of Ralph Thrale in 1758, the brewery passed to his son, Henry Thrale. When Henry Thrale died early in 1781, the Anchor Brewery was managed by a John Perkins with the assistance of Dr. Johnson as executor.

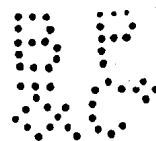
The latter, anxious to be rid of his responsibility found a wealthy bidder, David Barclay, who was prepared to buy the brewery. The purchaser put into the firm his nephew, who together with Mr. Perkins, founded the famous firm of Barclay Perkins and Co. on July 3rd 1781.

The London trade Directory shows that the name Barclay Perkins remained until 1961, when it changed to Courage Barclay.

The letter in the envelope made me smile - a pension of £13 per year! - values were very different in the thirties.



Mrs. ie,
je Road,
ascourt Park, W.6.



5710.04

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Cables & Telegrams
STRONGEST, BORON, LONDON.

BARCLAY PERKINS & CO. LTD.

WITH WHOM ARE ASSOCIATED

Style & Winch Ltd.

The Royal Brewery, Brentford, Ltd.

The Dartford Brewery Co. Ltd.

PARK STREET,
SOUTHWARK
LONDON S.E.1



BY JOHNSON



PLEASE Mrs. J.M.Lesslie
64, Weltje Road,
Ravenscourt Park, W.6.

28th May, 1937

Dear Madam,

I have pleasure in informing you that
the Board have agreed to grant you a pension of
£13 per annum until you are qualified to receive the
Old Age Pension.

This will be paid to you quarterly,
dating from February 18th last.

Yours faithfully,

FOR THE BARCLAY PERKINS & CO. LTD.

P. W. W. W.
ASST. SECRETARY